

PROGRESS ON BRINGING THE PROFESSION OF VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPISTS ON BOARD

We have been informed that, during the process of bringing the profession of veterinary physiotherapists on board, there have been concerns raised by applicants regarding the possibility of them [the applicants] not qualifying to register or not qualifying for authorisation to continue practicing in various fields or sub-fields of veterinary physiotherapy.

Concerns were also apparently expressed regarding the possibility that qualifications and experience of applicants who wish to come on board as veterinary physiotherapists, could be rejected. We are informed that some prospective applicants had decided not to submit their applications as they fear that their applications may be rejected.

We wish to inform you that the process of bringing a profession on board is staggered and there are several options in the process to ensure that applicants are accommodated. These options include limited registration and limited authorisation, granted on conditions of registration or conditions of authorisation depending on experience and qualifications. Registration is a permanent dispensation whilst authorisation is temporary with a view that the applicant may upskill him/herself during the period of authorisation. In some instances, authorisation can be granted and can be limited to a field of practice with conditions, which could include some form of examination but no further requirement of training other than training within the field of practice as part of continuing professional education requirements to keep up to date with the latest scientific knowledge.

Although there are no sub-categories for veterinary physiotherapy, an applicant may be registered or authorised on condition that the applicant only works in a modality or with a specie e.g. equines or canines. The registration certificate will specify the field of practice or the specie or if the applicant is authorised then the conditions of authorisation will be fully described.

All qualifications, of which the curriculums are submitted to the SAVC, will be assessed against the minimum standards of training and Day One skills. Where there appears to be a lack of training it will be pointed out to applicants and they will be guided in terms of the steps that they need to take e.g. further training and/or a special examination, which once passed, will allow applicants to continue practice.

Where a qualification is accepted for automatic registration Council will have conducted a full visitation in line with specific criteria, and having regard for the minimum standards and Day One Skills for veterinary physiotherapy. Any training institution may submit its [Self-Evaluation Report](#) [SER] to Council for assessment of the training should the institution wish to have its qualification assessed and accepted for automatic registration purposes. If you represent a training institution please contact Ms Leonie Westcott, Director Education at Email: education@savc.org.za for full details of the process.

The law requires that a person who performs veterinary physiotherapy on animals [that goes for all health treatments performed on animals] must be registered or authorised to perform such services. We are therefore concerned that those prospective applicants who decided not to apply for registration or authorisation will be subject to prosecution if they continue rendering the services and when applicants were invited to submit their applications the intention was to bring as many as possible veterinary physiotherapists on board.

Complimentary veterinary services for example, chiropractic- or homeopathy services may not be rendered on animals by anyone who is not registered as a veterinarian with the SAVC.

To ensure that the profession can make input to matters that effect the veterinary physiotherapy profession the SAVC will invite the South African Association of Physical Rehabilitators [SAAPRA] and/or any other association who represents at least fifty percent plus one of the registered and authorised applicants to attend Council meetings as observers until such time that there is an electorate who can vote for its representative on Council. Together with proof of membership we will need a constitution to decide whether SAAPRA or any other association is eligible to attend Council meetings by invitation.

Please see the timeline table below for information. You are welcome to contact Mrs L Westcott, Director Education should you have any queries regarding the acceptance of qualifications and experience.

	PROCESS	DATE
1	Deadline for applications under various sections	22 June 2018
2	<p>Processing of applications in preparation for SAVC Veterinary Physiotherapy Sub-Committee meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking that application was made in correct category • Checking completeness of application <p>Applicants may receive communication asking them to: submit an application in another category / submit any outstanding documents / verify information supplied on the application. Complete a table/ tick list regarding their applications.</p> <p>Only <u>complete</u> application will serve at the Sub-Committee meeting.</p>	July and August 2018
3	SAVC Veterinary Physiotherapy Sub-Committee meeting #1	5 September 2018
4	Feedback to applicants on progress made with veterinary physiotherapy applications	17 September 2018
5	SAVC Veterinary Physiotherapy Sub-Committee meeting #2	To be determined